

Hail And Farewell To Our Beloved Liberty Dolls

Clear back to Vol. 2, No. 1 of Doll Talk, Kimport offered its first doll from Liberty's of London, and except for the darkest days of World War II, we have been favored with their famous line. Even though they came through in a trickle, discerning collectors would wait months on end and the eventual receipt of the long ordered dolls would be amply rewarding.

We had hoped to continue at least on this basis, and last October ordered a choice group. With the honor so characteristic of the English merchants, Liberty booked those dolls and have just now delivered them, but alas, this letter came also:—

"Unfortunately, the supply of our dolls is very limited as you will have realized from the long delivery dates for the past years. This is caused by the very limited production facilities available. The only realistic solution would be for us to start up a doll factory to cope with this demand. If we were to do this, however, the prices would be increased to such an extent that in

our opinion they would cease to remain a marketable proposition, and, at the same time a large number of dolls which would have to be produced would cause the rarity value of these character dolls to disappear. Accordingly, Liberty and Co. (Wholesale) are planning to discontinue this limited production."

At the risk of disappointing so many, we offer all that we have on a "first come" basis. With the exception of the Beefeater there is only one of each kind, and you would do well to give us second and third choice or just say, "the best available" as they are almost equally attractive.

First, as sketched, is the red clad Tower Guard, a single doll that calls from memory the Thames Embankment, Abbey, bridges, shadows on the pave from ancient oaks, but on the other hand that vast, freezingly heartless pile, the Tower of London. Here, tall, stern-visaged Beefeaters in brave array, with thistle, shamrock and rose design entwined, splash startling color, even when enshrouding fog lifts from the river. This doll is a classic, a replica from his tall crowned hat to the rosettes on his shoes, and the high halberd in his hand. Nine inches tall, he is No. 259 and priced \$12.50. We have a dozen of these.

A general description of the making will perhaps suffice for the individual dolls. These have been hand-made in a traditional pattern from their beginning. Faces are all fine, flesh-hued cloth, shaped a



bit, then sketched and tinted into features that bear a resemblance to the personage depicted. Materials are often rare and brilliant, especially those used on royalty or high church dignitaries, because the ancient House of Liberty is far more famed for fabrics, jewels and rich handcrafts from all over old Britannia, than for its minor line of dolls.

William the Conqueror is a commanding figure dressed in full fighting mail and carrying a battle shield and long sword. No. L-11, 9" tall, \$17.50.

Richard the Lion Hearted is a bit taller and fully as imposing in his Crusader's chain-mail and over-garment of red velvet with the golden lions and a flaring white cape with the red cross emblem of his exploits. No. L-12, 10", \$17.50.

Earlier in history and equally regal in his costume to the warrior Kings, was Good King Alfred, sometimes called, The Great. He, too, is handsomely made with scarlet cape and golden crown. No. L-13, 10", \$17.50.

A perfect dream of a romantic figure is Bonnie Prince Charlie. Scotch though he is from his plaid kilts to his jaunty tam, he is as elegant as you'd wish and the lace on his cuffs and the embroidery on his coat do not hide the manliness of his face and stand. No. L-14, 10", \$17.50.

Had there been no Lord Nelson, England would not have been mistress of the sea for the century of her dominance. He's a veteran of Trafalgar with patch over eye and one armless sleeve, but his decorations are as resplendent as his heroism. No. L-15, 10", \$17.50.

Sir Francis Drake could have stepped down from a painting, so good his likeness to the famous Elizabethan admiral. His costume is fashioned of vertical striped silk of purple and gold and he carries his ermine trimmed cape, jeweled sword and decorations as the proud victor over Spain. No. L-16, \$17.50.

Queen Guinevere is as demure as the poet would have her appear, and though her costume is of rich material with gold braided belt and jeweled fasteners on her flowing blue cape, her headdress of white is most alluring. No. L-17, 9", \$15.00.



Shakespeare has neither sword nor shield, but he holds the pen mightier than either. He's richly dressed in period clothes and easily recognizable. No. L-18, 9", \$15.00.

Mr. Pickwick closes the notable parade of Liberty dolls, and all lovers of Dickens will chuckle again in thought of his gentle wit, and the far off time when the world jogged along at a gentler pace. He'd adorn any bookshelf or collection. No. L-19, 9", \$15.00.

If you have read this through by now you may say—Why build up wants Kimport cannot fill? Well, it's a sort of simple documentary. Those fortunate enough to own some Liberty dolls may value them the higher. Some lucky travelers who get around to London may try to buy direct. Again

it points up the good advice, always buy the dolls you know you should have, when you see them.

WHO SAID "USELESS"?

Mrs. W. R. Mahoney in her lovely Illinois home had the cooperation of her husband in doing a Christmas mantel set-up of dolls and figurines that show up most impressively in a photo she sent. But the gem of her letter its last paragraph:

"And I have a quotation I think you will enjoy. At the Chicago Symphony concerts this spring, a little known group of Ravel waltzes was played. In the program notes was the quotation from the poet Regnier which Ravel had written on his manuscript—"The delicious and ageless pleasure of a useless occupation!"—My predilection for miniatures isn't entirely useless, of course, anymore than the waltzes, but it certainly is ageless and delicious!"

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

Through the years, Doll Talk has gone to Lt. Col. R. F. Thomas, through A. P. O.'s both San Francisco and New York. Yes, Mrs. R. F.—Eloise—shared their Japanese assignment experiences with us. In Kimport's reference files there are cherished revealing letters on Hakatas—old ones versus current commercials; also, a notation of most exquisite ceremonial dolls of the short Kansei Era, 1789 to 1800. E. T.'s Japanese letters were on rice paper, block printed in four color Kokeshi doll sketches—nice!

From a just-in letter:—"Dear McKims—Back again in the U. S.

after nearly three years in Germany! It is good to be seeing all the children, grandchildren and many friends—but exhausting, too. What with hold baggage and things arriving at inconvenient times, then all must be sorted and stuck away until 'some of these days'. We found some wonderful dolls and dolls' houses, old Nurenberg kitchens, full of copper, brass and tin pieces, over 200 years old. There's some choice dolls' house furniture, so much that about all I can do now with all these treasures and my fabulous Japanese collection is start a museum! I've had several doll exhibits in Germany and have also given talks before various groups, American and Foreign. The interest is amazing and men—they may have been dragged there by their wives, but are the ones who refuse to be rushed and torn away from all the fascinating small odd things."

PRESIDENTS AND FIRST LADIES

This historic category has intrigued collectors, especially those who share their dolls as decoration for functions or as subject matter for a lecture engagement. Many collectors have worked to copy the Smithsonian inaugural gowns, using child-faced bisque dolls or china ones, which would of course, be a record of costume only. Then there have been several doll makers who modeled all different heads—these, so far as we know, all in considerably larger sizes than our li'l shelf size inhabitants of the White House.

We have no desire to over-write the Kimport group. Several art-

ists have, and still do, help in creating these and the likenesses may vary from fair to fabulous! Being individually painted, no two of any one subject even are identical. But the modelings of all are widely varied, with definite likenesses in cast of features, coloring and proportionate heights. Mr. Lincoln is 11 inches tall, and that's with his stovepipe hat in hand; James Madison is 9 inch size, the lightest weight physically but certainly not least in dignity and service!

Of course, if not considered collection class by us, and a good buy, too, they would not be offered to you. Composition material is largely a powdered stone; costuming is excellent. Our Bessie Hagen has compiled separate boxes for each First Lady, using largely the rich and delightful cloth and trimmings which some of you so generously share from time to time. Thanks—we in turn, also send much along to such sources as Dorris Serafini for her brilliant little gypsies, old kid gloves for shoes and some cloth, too, to Grandma Ritchey; even small boxes of tiniest pattern, exquisite old trimmings went abroad to Marguerite Uebel, the artist and teacher who makes those exquisite waxen headed German provincials.

Now where was I—Oh well, don't YOU ever take off on tangents when talking about dolls? What I have to say here has been postponed much too long as far as we are concerned. It seems that we have to at least break even, and that these First Families just weren't worth their production. At that, for the present, it will merely be a leveling up process. Most of the First Ladies were \$12.50 and the Presidents \$10.00 each. That

will be the price on all from now on, completely and correctly dressed, although not always in a copy of the inaugural gown. Frances Cleveland was a White House bride, so her wedding dress seemed more intriguing. Several war hero Presidents are in uniform; Mrs. Truman sometimes is done in the pulm colored daytime dress worn in her favorite portrait, the one shown in Bill Hillman's book, "Mr. President."

The Kimport Presidents and First Ladies should not be written down. Those who have completed sets have thrilled at each acquisition. The first complete set went to Mrs. Mary Gerst in Hawaii; another has helped gain publicity for the Bracken's Museum in Eureka Springs, where the entire group is assembled in front of a "White House" backdrop. That Doll of the Month Plan is being used by several extra smart collectors where, with every twelfth doll, pair or foursome, one receives her "average amount" gift bonus.

We'll be glad to send you our list for considering and for checking in sequence, or otherwise, should you be accumulating. All are listed, from General George and Martha, to General Ike and Mamie.

DAISY, DAISY

Ruth Burger writes from California that she received her Ladies Home Journal "Daisy" for Christmas 1911. "She wasn't blonde like Miss Chatfield described hers, but brunette for 43 years,—then I had her the most beautiful wig made from mother's deep auburn curls. So my "Daisy" is more beautiful and loved as she was when I was, oh, so young."

SCRITCH, SCRATCH AGAIN

Violet Lackey sent along at least a dollar's worth of conversation, in accompaniment to her purchase price dollar for a pair of those incredible Mexican dressed Fleas.

"Not that I need fleas," she explains. "It is everyone in the office where I work. Everyone to whom I mention dressed fleas is much impressed by the idea—and most skeptical! Dressed fleas? Mary Lynn, our eighteen-year-old, thought it might mean 'dressed' as in 'dressed chickens'. Mildred promised to deliver a flea they found on their kitten, Honey-Bee, if I would dress it! Anyhow, we just can't live any longer without fleas of our own, and it will be a dollar well spent. Never will so many have derived satisfaction from so little."

NEW DOLLY TO NEW DELHI

Mrs. Lester Naylor writes from Wisconsin: "I have been intending to write you for ever so long about a little undressed bisque purchased when I visited Kimport and had such fun dressing. Later, we had a wonderful gentleman from India visiting our home for an evening where he did notice a few of our dolls sitting around in the living room, so he told us about an international doll show that he had visited in New Delhi, India, some time ago. Then after dinner, we took him into my doll room and I wish you could have seen his face! After examining the different dolls, he picked up the little bisque girl, and made some comment on how cute it was. Before leaving he asked if I would buy a doll for his little daughter, but as he was going

to send them a package the next day, I gave him ours. Then in December, I sent another package with formal and informal clothes and just yesterday received a letter from his wife telling me about receiving them and how proud her daughter was to have some American dolls. Thought you might like to hear about how one other of you nice people's dolls got around."

OUR NECK'S OUT

This isn't that we're establishing any policy of tracking down, via these columns, some special doll for you—or you. Sure, we buy thousands of dolls—some singly, some complete collections—and sooner or later that precious file of customer wants does get whittled down. But one subscriber has besought us throughout her sixteen years on Doll Talk to please locate old magazine cut-outs for her. We seldom buy paper dolls, but if any of ye Good Samaritans can—Help—Help!

"I had the complete set of Grace Drayton's Dolly Dingle dolls but do so want, as I mentioned on several occasions, the 1st (March and May, 1913) issues. These two of mine were spoilt with water due to fire, a few years ago. During my illness and shock at that time, the duplicate ledger set of these which were to be bound for library reference just disappeared! The magazine was Pictorial Review in which Miss Drayton's chubby dolls, etc., appeared continually but not continuously, for twenty years, from 1913 to 1933."

You see, there is a nugget of doll dating information here, too, not solely our plea to delight a sister collector.

LATE ARRIVALS

How's about a little island hopping to pick up two brand-new-comers to Kimport? First, from Saint Vincent in the Caribbean, a banjo-eyed little man that we might have dubbed Eddie Cantor Brown! All cloth which means the good old hand-made kind; things different? Well, his four brown cotton limbs, stuffed tight as sausages, are hinged to swing right lively. Then, also, cane-cutter E. C. Brown carries a machete, that broadsword for defense or attack, but against jungle undergrowth, of course. You'd think some dollmaker before this would have featured that long bladed machete—why it's as important throughout Spanish America as the reindeer is in Lapland. Eight inches tall, as sketched, No. 267, \$3.50.

From Puerto Rico comes the silliest, homely headed island woman! A little over 6 inches tall, her bean, or seedpod, head glistens like old brown mahogany, but its contours are grotesque, concave profile like a cashew nut. We bought her to offer you though as excellent craftwork, with originality in design and a nice combination of brilliant and natural hue in the reeds in which she is costumed. None of us would weave the cunning big straw hat for twice her price. No. 464, \$1.00.

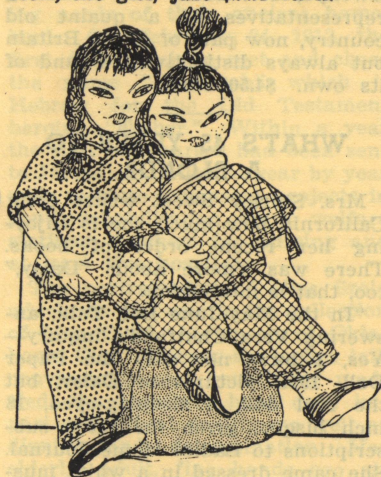
Buffalo Bill is in the finest tradition of pioneer America and he'll command his full share of admiration in any collection. You might have to put a "Beware" sign up against visiting boys or grandsons—because he comes armed with his long rifle the nemesis of marauders or buffalo alike. Mrs. Carrie Hall



first created this portrait doll for Kimport but she is now missed for this and many more important abilities. Fortunately we persuaded Cecile to include Buffalo Bill in her line. Her dolls, as you know, are beautifully done, and on this she has been able to add some genuine hand-tanned leather for his fringed jacket and long legged pants. That comes from her having a friend who not only shot the deer and tanned the hide, but made it available to Cecile. This is No. 104X, 10 inches tall, at \$15.00.

Nothing comes through the Iron Curtain these days officially, but in some devious way, even the merchants of Jugo-Slavia manage to trade while their masters backs

are turned. That's how we came by a recent parcel of dolls from Zagreb. There are many separate countries carved out of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Bosnia is one of them. Our offering this time is a brilliantly costumed little pair, just 5 inches tall. These are Phillip and Petriya of Bosnia-Herzegovina, each with an impressive official label. She has distinct traces of the Turkish of past conquerors in the baggy trousers of blue silk, but her tight fitting bodice is peasant as is her scarf headdress. A winsome little red cheeked Miss. Phillip has the pill-box hat, embroidered trousers and red vest, the pride of the Balkans. They are Nos. 860, the boy, and 860A, the girl, just \$2.25 each.



Many years ago, before China fell to its communist exploiters, Kimport used to catalog a clever pair of Chinese children called Wang and Dagou. She had bangs and fetching pigtails and he had a top-

knot of hair, used, the Old Chinese said, to snatch little boys up to heaven! Now we have a new shipment from Hong Kong. It looks mighty like sewing machine stitches and the materials are brand new and bright. But the style is the same as our first little pair and you'll like their chubby little bodies and cheerful embroidered faces. Nos. 414, the boy, and 414A, the girl, each 6 inches tall, \$1.75 each.

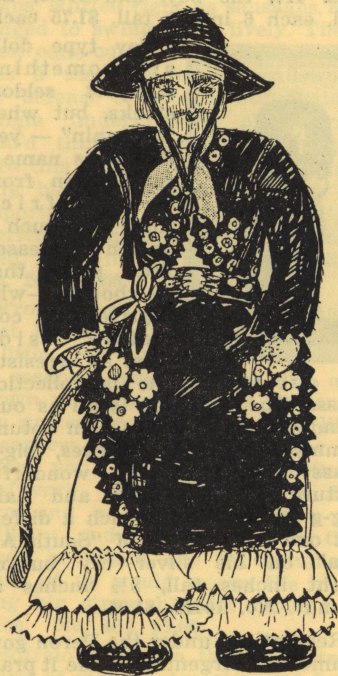


Toy type dolls are something Kimport seldom stocks, but when "Piccanin" — yes, that's his name—sampled in from South Africa there was such a unison of pleased little purrs that we thought—why deprive you collectors. Aside from an irresistible

gift toddler, he is collection class. The modeling is all as outstanding as—as is his own rotund tummy! Big-g baby eyes, big-g brass hoop earrings, wonderful texture of both flesh and hair. Big-g value, too, for such a different one with Union of "South Africa" on his silver cry button. Eight inches tall, 8½ inches around! No. 104H, \$1.95.

Regulations under the Peron government in Argentina made it practically impossible for companies in that country to do any export business but now that things have taken a turn for the better, we have been able to obtain for the first time in years, a shipment of authentic Argentine Gaucho dolls. In ideal 7½" size, this gay cabellero

is made entirely of felt in a profusion of colors with nicely featured, copper-hued, silk stockenette face. His costume is the well known attire of the pampas cowboy with roll-brimmed hat, flowery vest and bulky legs encased in chaps which help him to stand alone. Even the quirt in his hand is correct in detail. No. 374 at \$7.50.



By popular demand we have now received a repeat shipment of suave little guardsmen from the tiny Principality of Moraco. This romantic looking fellow is made of fine French celluloid, eight inches tall and costumed most elegantly

in military black tunic, belted in white with blue felt trousers, red striped, topped by a brilliant red plumed helmet. Actually imported direct from the miniature Kingdom of Grace and Ranier, he is No. 502, \$4.95.

Another always popular Kimport import is Llewellyn of Wales and his sweetheart, Gwenyd. A charming pair of 7" dolls in the famous old Celtic garb including the distinctive black "chimney pot" hat, trimmed in white lace in Gwenyd's case to add that feminine touch. They have prettily cast heads, smoothly enameled with boldly painted features and sturdy wooden bases which enable them to stand alone. Llewellyn, No. 262, and Gwenyd, No. 262A, are charming representatives of a quaint old country, now part of Great Britain but always distinctively a land of its own. \$4.50 each.

WHAT'S 45 YEARS TO A BLOND?

Mrs. Shirley Sweet writes from California how much she is enjoying her recent order of books. There was s'more about "Daisy," too, that is interesting.

"In the May-June Doll Talk, answering Vera Chatfield's inquiry—Yes, I have not only the Paper Doll, 1911, pictures of Daisy, but the real doll, a sleeping-eyed, 18 inch bisque, given for three subscriptions to Ladies Home Journal. She came dressed in a white muslin slip with lace stockings and slippers. Each month were new pattern clothes for Daisy. She has lovely golden curls and pearly teeth; her arms, legs, wrists and feet move. My Lettie Lane Doll

"Daisy" is reclining in her original box, in as good condition as when she came, away back in 1911. We little girls were not permitted to do much playing with her but could sit and hold our golden-haired treasure on very special occasions."

BENEFACTRESS

It took a doll to acquaint us with "Hadassah," now an international organization of almost half million Jewish women, but, of course, largely from these United States. The doll is a beautifully fashioned likeness of Henrietta Szold (1860-1945) who, after a Palestine pilgrimage, returned to enthuse her fellow-women concerning the crying needs of their ancient homeland. On February 24, 1912, the first devoted circle met and chose the name "Hadassah" which is Hebrew for the Old Testament heroine, "Esther." Within a year the first two nurses had been sent to Jerusalem, followed year by year with resolute expansion projects in youth rehabilitation, many welfare stations, a school for nursing and at least five hospitals.

The portrait doll of Miss Szold which we met was in the collection of Mrs. C. M. Atchinson of Oklahoma City. Twenty-six inches tall, convincingly and beautifully modeled, the porcelain head does impart a spiritual quality, as well as dignity and determination. Her elderly, adult, fine hands are almost as expressive as the proudly posed head!

Mrs. L. A. Richard, the artist who modeled and makes this doll, is keeping it to a limited edition of one hundred.

THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Mrs. Thomas J. Fogel just may have been one of us mothers who get "pleasures herself" with daughter's collection dolls. That's almost standard! But now she writes that Kathleen has progressed through the stages of—Dolls, then Guys and Dolls, now guys, with school for Nursing edging in."

Ah, well, nothing outranks normalcy, even though it costs us many a growing girl customer for those regular curricular years! Mrs. F. did ease the news to us by continuing Doll Talk and writing:—"These magazines, and pedigree pages share space in our doll cabinet. We'll write Kimport again when we are ready for more dolls. Thank you for all your kindness through the years when we were asking for the many types of dolls. We appreciated everything and are always glad to tell friends where these most interesting dolls may be bought."

WHEN DIRT DOMINATES

"I have so much enjoyed reading items sent in by Doll Talk subscribers, so thought maybe some of you would like to read how I wash old linens and doll clothes.

"First, soak them at least an hour in luke warm water, then use one cup of detergent and one cup chlorine bleach in an automatic washer. Adding wash cloths or such small articles to the machine definitely helps to rub them clean. Very small things, little laces and such are better enclosed in a nylon sack which can be contrived from a stocking."

—Mrs. O. A. Fichtner, Indiana



Last Doll Talk our Antiques took front page billing and back page bragging! It IS a thrill to handle famous dolls, those very little chin-*nas* and papier-maches for instance, who were proudly in place for the fabulous Crystal Palace grand opening, back in 1851. We at Kimport have been unusually wary concerning credentials, and we should continue to place intrinsic value above almost any other claim in pricing dolls. But that flood of aristocrats was some thrill!

First, two this time have added value, but, as with our historic English offerings, no stepped up pricing; they are old bisque darlings in original store boxes.

"Mon Petit Couer," her picture and letters "B.S.W." in a heart, "Marque de Fabrique" label the fragile old 18 inch long box into which a Gay Nineties, elaborately dressed la fille is still tied. A gold lettered ribbon on her sky blue french frock reads "Jemarche" and does she step out when you hold her shoulders, turning her bisque head briskly with every snappy step! Composition body is good quality; sleeping blue eyes with long lashes; brown curls, open lips, very attractive costume with ribbon, pleating, lace and an ostrich tip all on the wired brim hat; white leather slippers; lace stockings, long waisted dress and hat all in the light blue. No. A544, \$55.00.

"Our Baby," also about 18 inches in size, is pictured in full color on

his old box label; also, two blue ellipses with "Elba" in one and "L W & Co" in the other. Inside the box are cardboard forms that have encircled and protected "Our Baby" since about 1914. A darling "character" type with nice full modeling above his sleeping gray eyes; short, bobbed wig; tongue modeled in bisque as just above lower lip and four bisque teeth with upper lip; head (12 inches in circumference); head marking, "L-W & Co". Nice, chubby, composition body is jointed at hips and shoulders. No. A291, \$32.00.

And in a basket of the sweet old sewing box kind with hinged wicker lid, there lives, with some extra clothes, bits and pieces and hoarded trinkets, Mid-Victorian, 6 inch Mary. Mary is a finely modeled blond of white bisque with Grecian profile, upper and lower eyelids modeled, which means her curls and comb lines are proportionately sharp. Head and torso are in one piece; arms and bare-foot legs were jointed at shoulders and hips. The limbs are not as perfect as the head, but they are all original and intact. Solid Mary (looks like salt glaze) with her belongings in the sturdy 8 inch hamper is No. A545, \$25.00.

Offering dolls in varying categories is about the most satisfying, so we'll skip from the bisque children in boxes and the "almost-parian" in her basket to china, wood, wax and waxed papier-mache and other composition.

Sixteen and one-half inch China, but of a creamy, pinkish tint, is an undressed girl doll whose 4 inch head is marked "B & D." This German made china sometimes also is stamped with a bell

rademark; nice hair style; all new body with leather, button shoes made right onto the legs; real H.D.D.H. arms match the head color exactly. She should have a nice old cotton print or silk for her dress. No. A515, \$31.00.

Another, really choice one, I think, is the smallest size "Dottier" or marked "Dec. 1880." Nine and one-half inches tall and all perfect; original 2½ inch head; arms and legs with bittersweet boots and green bow garters. Old body was impossible, so, this apple cheeked, plump-prim has a new properly proportioned one with her corset inked on. New underwear outfit, too, but no frock. No. A371, \$35.00.

One other good highbrow is serene, 13½ inch Miss Jennie, whose waves scallop almost straight across that high forehead from white line center part on her perfect old 3½ inch head. Slender, high glaze arms and blue booted feet with mauve string garters are original, all circa 1860's and in splendid condition. Her red serge suit is trimmed with antique braid and velvet and there is a becoming hat, too, not so old as the rest though. Pretty Jennie (we added the "Miss") came from an Indiana home. No. A493, \$34.00.

For woodens this time, two "sublimey," and a dozen "ridiculoush!" I should be abashed-like to coin such a flippant adjective for a pair of Oxford gentlemen who are definitely 18th century, rare cabinet pieces that had probably spent their last century in the Chelsea (England) Museum, from whence they came to Kimport. Three and one-half inch, fully jointed, in perfect and completely original condition, these amazing miniatures are

mounted on satin covered, heavy discs, as they were really chess men back in the days of George III! No. 601G, price \$32.50. each.

And down from "s'blimey" to Penny Woodens, which are one of the oldest toy types to have persisted exactly like the loved and saced antique examples. We were afraid there'd be no more, but two dozen in 7 inch size came through. These have roundish heads and torso, in one piece, with legs and arms mortised in to swing. Hand-carved, maybe whittled, tells it better, and primitively painted, too, with rose-pink cheeks, black smooth hair and a funny little huddle of eyes'n'mouth that are truly the 'classic' penny wooden style. No. 264, undressed, \$3.00, or some are in interesting old clothes, No. 264D, \$5.00 each.

Three choice wax ones, and why, oh why, do some of you get the fixation that the good antique waxes are too fragile? More chipped and cracked ceramic kinds it seems to me are shown than old, fine qupality waxts.

Who wouldn't be proud to own a 15½ inch boy, we are certain by Pierotti, as the wax color, the beautifully shaped blue eyes and the natural, abundant thatch of inset brown hair are like the pictures and examples of Pierotti dolls. Then, too, his original body is stamped "Hamley," that historic toy house where Luella Hart gained her best data on this and some other English lines. He's had a neck mend, but this does not show above the collar of his beautifully embroidered old Cotswold smock. Everyone will admire! Of course, mends or defects are always considered when pricing dolls. This rare one, No. A354, is \$75.00.

"Poured" or "solid" also is the rosy pink tint wax head and arms of blue-eyed "Lady Baby," 15½ inches tall. Quite a few of the English wax dolls were made in this rather florid complexion. Her wig is of fine human hair in a lovely shade of brown, and a nice short style with swirled curls and bit of bangs. The christening robe costume is especially lovely. You just never saw more handsome old embroidery on anything; some of the little flowers look padded, and this alternates with groups of tucks all down the front of a 25 inch long dress. Flannel pinning blanket, petticoat and precious, hand-knitted booties complete her outfit. No. A478, she is priced \$48.00.

The third is a small darling, only 9½ inches tall, the cutest little Frenchy thing with large, purple-blue glass eyes, blond wig that has been combed and played with, but still adequate; waxed limbs; original body and very sweet original old French clothes. We will admit to turning some of them wrong side out though, as they were so faded—the colors bright rose and clear yellow—two shades of silk with little pale blue bows. The funny little slippers and the bow in her hair are of the same old material so they just simply had to be spruced up a bit. "Missy Victorian," circa 1878, is No. A449, priced \$40.00.

Next, a 13 inch "Milliner's Model," or anyway, one of those delightfully dignified ladies with deep shouldered papier-mache heads, wooden limbs from knees and elbow; the rest slim, slim, white kid made rigid and adult. This completely un-retouched example dates around 1840. The hair style

of that era loops 'way low, then up to a huge round knot which is concave with comb or ornament modeled in it. No broken hands or feet, only age crack down a shoulder. Original clothes? No, but Mrs. McKim used some over a hundred year old silk, a lovely cherished piece sent in by some of you, to dress her properly, artistically. A truly fine example—No. A537, \$82.50.

One can budget, you know.

Another even more unusual type papier-mache headed doll is a 10 inch Blackamoor, who, like Uncle Ned in the old ballad, had mighty scant wool on the top of his "haid." He is a puffy cheeked little African with painted on red earrings and big lips; early type porcelain eyes; deep shouldered—really a little torso, then a soft section at the upper part of the legs and arms with lower limbs again in the wood; swiveled joints, even at wrists and ankles! In original cambric suit with fancy vest and a dirty blue necktie! Blackamoor boy also dates around 1840. No. A448, price, \$75.00.

A couple of little girl plaything sized Shirley Temples have remarkably good original curl top wigs. Eyes, fringed with lashes, do open and close; both in short print cotton frocks, panties and slippers. The 15 inch one looks like she may have had a dab of retouching on her chin, but most successfully. No. A546, \$12.00. The little, cute Shirley, prized 13 inch size, is quite perfect. No. A543, \$16.00.

And now, a couple of babies—beautifully modeled, good ones! First is 17 inch toothless but smiling, dimpled, Georgene Averill bisque infant with sleeping blue eyes;

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

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KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

soft chubby body with fat composition hands and legs to his knees; nicely dressed. If you've tried to find one of these irresistible G.A.'s, you will welcome this No. A866, at \$35.00.

Big, almost life-size Kestner baby boy should be speedily adopted. Twenty inches long, head 14 inches around with sleeping dark gray eyes. He has a little bisque tongue and a pair of pearly uppers. Marked J.D.K. jointed composition body has been tautly re-strung and his fine, hand-made clothes freshly laundered. No. A541, \$32.50.

Here's a half dozen quickies, not really dolls at all:—

A blue glass Shirley Temple pitcher with the smiling head of America's life sweetheart thereon. Four and one-half inches, nice quality and perfect. No. A33X, \$3.50.

Seven inch Billiken plate, dated 1908, "Stirling" crown mark china, in full color and perfect. No. A34X, \$4.00.

A delightfully oldfashioned pair of cottage ornaments. Mounted in fan shape, shells about 4 x 4 inches are China Boy Blue with a French horn and China Mary Had'a—with her lamb! Other small shells and

quaint lithograph cut-outs pattern the backgrounds. They have easel backs; would be wonderful on some old Victorian whatnot. No. 35X, the pair, \$7.50.

Doll muff, 2½" white fur lined with rose-pink silk; with neck cord; in original old bandbox. No. A36X, \$2.95.

Satin smooth, 3½ inch long, reclining bisque lady in seagreen bathing togs. Undoubtedly designed as an aquarium siren. No. A37X, \$2.00.

Exquisitely carved from hardwood is a classic Irish harp, only a bit over 3 inches tall. It came to us in a collection of fine dolls several years ago and we'd thought to use it with some truly fine old Irish doll. But who gets done everything they intend! So, this harp alone, completely covered with symbols in carving—it has six wrist pins but only four sections to represent groups of strings. No. A38X, \$2.50.

And now for a climax, a doll that stands alone in our long years of experience for tops in her class—a Dresden parian, but small, for sheer perfection and beauty. Height is 5¾ inches; slender throated, deep shouldered head just 2½ inches. She is the famed Dresden Empress Eugenie whose partician features are framed with a bit of golden hair in front of her elaborate swag and plume headdress. The plume is silver luster on white; the drape is grape luster ending in a tassel of gold on white. The thread size lines of her net or snood are hunter green. Long, lady-like arms are the same quality parian as her exquisite head; legs parian top with high glaze socks, lacy scallop trimmed and dear little grape luster boots. The little Empress is all original, all perfect,

beautifully dressed long, long ago. The many overlapping scalloped flounces of her ivory silk gown are tattered, so replacement material, knife pleated and scalloped, is included, should one wish to change. Her Majesty is No. A288, \$130.00.

"VIE" A FAMILY PORTRAIT

A doll maker, talented Mrs. Muriel Bruyere, and Doll Talk editor, Ruby Short McKim, are both responsible for "Vie", a little girl of 1859. Back in 1940, Doll Talk Vol. 3, number 9, Kimport first introduced this soft-bodied dolly with dull finish ceramic head and limbs. It has been modeled, then, through a series of rather complicated molds made into the likeness of Mrs. McKim's mother's portrait, little Viola Vernon at age five. After that initial work had all been done, it was fairly simple to sun an edition of about three dozen. These



were fired in a kiln, painted in the charmingly direct Bruyere style, then fitted out with shapely bodies that can sit perfectly. Hair seems to be shellacked to give contrasting luster finish to the flesh.

This does and should sound like dolly "Vie" owes everything to Mrs. Bruyere but the idea did come from our wanting this ancestor doll for a family possession. Nine inches tall, dressed at Kimport, she is No. 191D, \$13.50. She may be ordered undressed as No. 191, \$10.00.

OH, WE STRIVE!

You know how virtuously a youngster will bask in the warmth of praise for good behavior—well, maybe deserved compliments are tonic to us all. We certainly never have become blase to expressions from satisfied collectors; sometimes we go pretty far out onto limbs to find or to have made something special for you—or you—or you! Our specially made characters from history, even some family portraits, have proved gratifying all around. Two series on History of Nursing have been individually modeled portrait dolls, authentically dressed—quite expensive, yes, but an exclusive possession that fits into enough lecture work to make it richly rewarding. Calls for Bible characters come betimes which have also been answered with dolls of dignity and fidelity. The alternative to having adult person dolls made for such educational projects is to buy commercial dollies with identical child faces and plump little bodies, then depend on the garb for entire effect—an impossibility, we think.

Down to cases! Our artist, Bessie

Sellers, has modeled from powdered stone, splendid Moses and Aaron heads and made them into 9 inch dolls with leather-sandaled bare feet. Robed in white, The Law Giver with dark over-drape shawl and carrying stone tablet; Priest Aaron with metal breast-plate, they are, No. 58M, Moses, \$10.00. No. 58A, Aaron, \$10.00.

Any other Men or Women of the Bible that you'd love to have—we can probably accommodate you.

One "Religious" doll portrait that was requested so many times that moulds were made, is the same size doll of Father Junipero Serra. This priest has a sweet but determined expression; 'same powdered stone composition is used for head, arms and legs, all properly costumed according to the 18th century era in which he traveled the upper California countryside establishing El Camino Real and the nine Missions thereon. Lots of stories could be told with this adventurous Christian missionary as central character. No. 58P—Father Serra—\$10.00.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"It has been almost twenty-five years since my mother started our doll collection, and we can't thank you enough for all your help through the years. With mother teaching school, you can know that the dolls have contributed a great deal towards educating many children." —Vicky Richards, Calif.

"We all like the Washington Woodsman and again think it is one of our very nicest dolls."

—Gertrude Haley, Calif.

"I found the nicest little house across the street from my church. My priest came to bless my house and thought it very nice. All the neighbor children found my dolls the first thing, and I'm not lonesome. . . My little doll house is my cat's favorite den. The cat is only two months old and so crawls in and out the windows." Cozy, eh?

—Roana Clark, Wash.

"I really do appreciate the budget service that Kimport gives. It's wonderful for doll collectors with a limited income."

—Freda Webb, Calif.

"Received an extra copy of the last Doll Talk so I'm sending it along to a friend who, I just learned, has begun to collect foreign dolls. I have always been so well pleased with my purchases from you that I thought she would enjoy the same opportunities you've offered me."

—Mrs. George Harsch, Ohio

"Thanks, for holding the Beef-eater for me, and now he may come, as this is the way I enjoy spending birthday money!"

—Mrs. Walter Shaffer, Penna.

"My dealings with you were always pleasant, but I no longer collect. At my age, 84, I still have collector friends who are an active, eager set." —Mrs. G. C. Cone, Ariz.

"I prefer my antique dolls with as little as possible restoration, especially as to the face. Seems to me that after forty years or so, dolls, like a man, are responsible for their own countenance."

—Mrs. Edna Horndahl, Conn.

Kimport Really Is Getting Around This Year!

ANNUAL KIMPORT SHOW

Will Be Held At The
JOSEPH HORNE COMPANY
Toy Department
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

SEPT. 30 to OCT. 5

Last year the Kimport Doll Show was a huge success at the Joseph Horne Company, and they have invited us back. . . Many new foreign lines have been added this year and there are dolls to suit every collector. Prices from 50 cents on little items up to \$150.00 for precious antiques.

Kim McKim will be in personal charge of the show and anticipates meeting you.

DOLL COLLECTOR'S SHOW IN PHILADELPHIA

Kimport is proud to announce it's big doll exhibit in the Toy Department of

**STRAWBRIDGE AND
CLOTHIER**

OCT. 14 to OCT. 19

There are a great many doll collectors in the Philadelphia area, and we have selected dolls in wide variety and excellent value to show and sell in this important event. . . There will be colorful dolls imported from all parts of the world, as well as American types in interesting variety. The antique section will be especially important.

Luella S. Hart, author, scores again

Only Congress can pry the secrets of their operations from the F. B. I. and you can imagine the jealous way Sherlock Holmes could guard his trade! But nothing seems to daunt Luella S. Hart: she garners doll information here, in England and in France which she generously shares. Her personal correspondence must be exhausting.

"Spinning Wheel" magazine has scooped the field, offering Mrs. Hart's newest success, devoting four pages of their August 1957 issue to her article, "French Doll Trademarks, 1885-1900." There are columns of explanatory text and doll history as well as pictures of many rare dolls. There are literally scores of facsimile cuts of actual trademarks, together with the identifying dates and information filed with the French government when the trademarks were first issued. How's that for a set of clues to the pedigrees of your French bisques, mechanicals, etc.? It must be granted though that perhaps more of these old treasures just never were marked by their makers than the lovelies that were.

With the cooperation of "Spinning Wheel Magazine" we have stocked a generous supply of this special number and will send at 30 cents. Maybe we can include in your next order.

SEND ALL ORDERS TO P. O. BOX 495

KIMPORT DOLLS, INDEPENDENCE, MO.